

PPE: Eye Protection Requirements

Federal Occupational, Safety, and Health Administration (OSHA) standards state that eye protection is “required where there is a reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such equipment”.

Areas where eye protection is required are posted with a sign. Wording is:

CAUTION – EYE HAZARD AREA – DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT EYE PROTECTION

Or

EYE PROTECTION REQUIRED

All personnel who work in such an area must wear eye protection. Managers and supervisors responsible for eye hazard areas must make eye protection available to all personnel, including visitors, who enter the area.

Potential eye hazards include operations that:

- Produce flying particles, such as those created when using machining equipment or portable power tools
- Involve the handling of hazardous liquids, for example, chemicals, plating baths, or epoxies where there is a potential for a chemical splash hazard
- Involve exposure to intense light, such as working with UV or lasers. For lasers, the C-AD ESH Coordinator, Asher Etkin, x4006, determines which protective eyewear personnel use.
- Produce molten metal by welding or brazing
- Produce an electric arc, such as by grounding a charged capacitor
- Could expose workers to electrical arc flash
- Use pressure systems, such as compressed air or hydraulic systems
- Involve exposure to cryogenics

Personnel are required to wear eye protection when performing any task that presents an eye-injury hazard. The C-AD ESSHQ Division, x5272, is available to assist in defining eye-hazard operations and in selecting appropriate eye protection.